

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Applicant has amended Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Thus, Claims 1-27 remain pending in the present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed February 9, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 are presently objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments, and respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 9-15 and 21-27 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,418,471 ("Shelton"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites selecting a saved request corresponding to a saved URL from a request history, if the saved request is a form request, selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms in an originating web page as a target URL, if the saved request is not the form request, selecting a best-fit URL in the originating web page as the target URL, and sending a replay request to the target URL. Thus, when replaying a predefined path through a set of web pages, a saved request corresponding to a saved URL is selected from a request history, this request is then evaluated against the originating web page to find a target URL, and a replay request is made to the target URL.

In certain circumstances, this saved request may be for a form, and a best-fit form is selected from the originating web page by comparing the saved request against the originating web page. In some cases, this best-fit form may contain parameters which were not entered by the user. If this is the case, this form parameter may then be replaced with a form parameter

provided in the form for a current configuration of the originating web page before a replay request is made. As an example, a form in the originating web page may have included a session ID when the path was originally defined. If the replay request includes the form parameter saved in the request history, errors will likely result when the replay request is made. The errors may cause a "session expired" message to be returned and the user's path will not be properly simulated. Therefore, the session ID stored in the request history may be replaced with the session ID contained in the form for the current configuration of the originating web page, thereby preventing an expiration error. In this manner, the appropriate content into updated form fields (such as session IDs, timestamps, etc), and URLs which are dynamically created may be replayed without errors. (Page 10, Lines 15-28)

In contrast, Shelton discloses a system that uses Applets embedded in web pages to record a request history. This request history may then be played back, however, the original URL that was used is recorded, and that exact URL is used when the web pages are re-browsed. (Col. 18, Lines 25-32) Consequently, Shelton cannot handle dynamically created URLs. To continue with the example above, many sites embed session information in the URL. When a site is next visited, the session would change. A browser knows a session id because the HTML received has the new URL (containing the session id). If, like Shelton, the original URL is used to try to re-browse a dynamic site, it is possible that a time out message may occur if the session has expired. Consequently, Shelton teaches a method which cannot handle dynamic web sites, as can the method of Claim 1.

Additionally, upon review of the portions of Shelton cited by the Examiner, Applicant cannot find where Shelton discloses selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms in an originating web page as a target URL. Shelton includes the ability to store each URL request to keep track of when each browser activity took place. (Col 2, Lines 38-42) During replay of the URLs browsed by a browser, the web page identified by the URLs are retrieved by the WTS server and sent to user and agent Master Applets. (Col. 18, Lines 30-48). The web page identified by the stored URL is retrieved without any comparison of the URL to an originating web page. Thus, in Shelton, the original stored URL is the target URL retrieved by the WTS server. In contrast, Claim 1 discloses selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms as the target URL, where the best-fit form is selected by comparing the saved request against the forms in the originating web page. This best fit-form may not be identical to the saved-request. Because the web pages of Shelton are retrieved without comparing the original stored URL to an originating web page, and the original saved URL is always the target URL, Shelton does not

disclose selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms in an originating web page as a target URL, as asserted by the Examiner.

The same logic applies to the limitation of selecting a best-fit URL in the originating web-page as the target URL, as disclosed in Claim 1. In Shelton, the web page identified by the URL is retrieved without any comparison of the URL to the originating web page. Thus, in Shelton, the stored URL is the target URL retrieved by the WTS server. In contrast, Claim 1 discloses selecting a best-fit URL in the originating web page as the target URL, where the best-fit URL is selected by comparing the saved request against the URL links in the originating web page. This best fit-URL may not match the saved-request, and if the exact URL from the saved request is not found on the originating web page, then the URL at the corresponding address may be used. (Page 11, Lines 22-25) Because the web pages of Shelton are retrieved without comparing the original stored URL to an originating web page, Shelton does not disclose selecting a best-fit URL in an originating web page as a target URL, as asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and its associated dependent Claims 2, 3 and 9-11 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that because independent Claims 12, 13, 24 and 27 contain limitations similar to Claim 1, the arguments presented above with respect to Claim 1 apply equally well to Claims 12, 13, 24 and 27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 12, 13, 24 and 27 and their respective dependent claims 14, 15, 21-23, 25, and 26.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8 and 18-20 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,418,471 ("Shelton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,912 ("Anupam"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As Claims 6-8 depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 18-20 depend from independent Claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that the arguments presented above with respect to Shelton and Claim 1 apply equally well to the rejection of Claims 6-8 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Because Shelton does not teach all the limitations of Claims 1 and 13 (as discussed above), the combination of Shelton and Anupam does not teach all the limitations of Claims 6-8 and 18-20. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested as well.

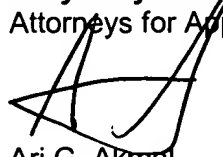
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-27. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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